

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

Raymond G. Goodwin and Wanwan S. Din

Docket No.: 2519

Group Art Unit: 1647

Examiner: D. Romeo

Serial No: 09/302,863

Filed: April 30, 1999

For: METHODS OF USE OF THE TACI/TACI-L INTERACTION

AMENDMENT AND REPLY

BOX AF

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action having a mailing date of July 16, 2001, Applicants respectfully submit the following Amendment and Reply and request reconsideration and allowance of the claims. This Amendment and Reply is being filed concurrently with a Petition for a three-month extension of time and a Notice of Appeal, as well as the requisite fees.

Kindly amend the specification as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, beginning at line 28 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The terms TACI and TACI protein are used interchangeably to describe the TNF receptor disclosed in WO 98/36361. As described in WO 98/36361 at page 19, lines 12-16, a TACI protein comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 from residue 1 to residue 293. TACI proteins comprise an extracellular, transmembrane and cytoplasmic domain. The extracellular domain corresponds approximately to residues 1 to 166, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO:2, which contains a ligand binding domain, and the cytoplasmic domain corresponds approximately to residues 187 to 293, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO:2 (WO 98/36361 at page 18, line 17 to page 19, line 4). -

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, beginning at line 31 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- "Fragments" of TACI comprise truncated amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:2 that retain the capacity to bind TACI-L (see below). In one embodiment, a TACI protein fragment comprises the soluble extracellular domain, which corresponds to the

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